

FISCAL NOTE

SB 567 - HB 1097

April 4, 2003

SUMMARY OF BILL: Establishes the *Early Mathematics Placement Testing Act of 2003* to decrease the number of high school graduates in Tennessee requiring mathematics remediation upon enrollment in postsecondary education as follows:

- A computer website-based diagnostics test is to be developed that would provide information to high school sophomores and juniors statewide regarding their level of mathematics knowledge relative to required standards for community and technical college and university level mathematics.
- This program is to be developed and conducted by a public university. The Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC), with the advise of the Department of Education, shall develop a process to solicit, review, and select a proposal for the development and implementation of the computer website-based testing program. THEC shall approve the location of the program at a public university no later than January 1, 2004. The program shall be available to all interested Tennessee public and private high school students in grades 10 and 11, but is available to all Tennessee residents for evaluation of their own mathematics knowledge and skills.
- The public university that conducts the testing program would submit an annual report to the State Board of Education and THEC regarding the activities and the effects of the program on levels of remediation required by participating students.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - Exceeds \$100,000

Estimate assumes:

- The PLATO system would be used to evaluate the math skill of high school students.
- One central staff person would be needed to coordinate the activities of the high schools, higher education campuses, and software access at a cost of \$45,000.
- Cost per student to take the PLATO test(s) is \$5.00 - \$7.00
- Cost for communication with students is \$.37 for postage and \$.50 for materials.
- Using an ADM of 64,455 sophomores and 56,371 juniors in the 2001-02 school year, there would be 120,826 eligible students.
- If 10% or 12,083 participate in the program, state expenditures are estimated to exceed \$100,000 based on the cost of the test, communication and central coordination costs.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James A. Davenport, Executive Director